

Fundamentals of Criminal Law (CRIJ 1310) Online



Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: Completed the Online Orientation and answered 7+ questions correctly on the Online Learner Self-Assessment: <http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

Course Description

Study of criminal law, its philosophical and historical development, major definitions and concepts, classifications and elements of crime, penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations, and criminal responsibility. *This course is time-bound, structured and completed online.*

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Criminal Law* by Lisa Storm, version 1.0 , Flatworld Knowledge, 2012, eISBN 978-1-4533-3129-3
2. Computer with internet access.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the historical and philosophical development of the nature of criminal law.
2. Describe definitions and concepts of criminal law and the classifications of crimes and penalties using Texas statutes as illustrations.
3. List the elements of crimes using the Texas statutes as an illustration; and discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.
4. Discuss criminal responsibilities as they apply to the criminal statutes.
5. Select answers to computer-based tests that are akin to current Criminal Justice certification exams. (*additional objective not in ACGM*)

Course Outline:

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| <p>A. Welcome to College:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of faculty and students2. Meet your instructor3. What am I doing here? <p>B. LIT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Policies2. Academic calendar3. Physical facilities <p>C. Introduction to Criminal Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure2. The Difference between Civil and Criminal Law3. Classification of Crimes4. The Purpose of Punishment5. Sources of Law | <p>D. The Legal System in the United States</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Federalism2. The Branches of Government3. The Court System4. The Burden of Proof <p>E. Constitutional Protections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Applicability of the Constitution2. The Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses3. Freedom of Speech4. The Right to Privacy5. The Right to Bear Arms6. Excessive Punishment <p>F. The Elements of a Crime</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Criminal Elements |
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- 2. Criminal Intent
- 3. Causation and Harm

- G. Criminal Defenses, Part I
 - 1. Criminal Defenses
 - 2. Self Defense
 - 3. Other Use-of Force Defense
 - 4. Defenses based on Choice
 - 5. Consent
- H. Criminal Defenses, Part 2
 - 1. The Insanity Defense
 - 2. Infancy, Intoxication, Ignorance, and Mistake
 - 3. Entrapment
- I. Parties to Crimes
 - 1. Parties to Crimes
 - 2. Vicarious Liability
 - 3. Accessory
- J. Inchoate Offenses
 - 1. Attempt
 - 2. Conspiracy
 - 3. Solicitation
- K. Criminal Homicide
 - 1. Homicide
 - 2. Murder
 - 3. First-Degree Murder
 - 4. Felony Murder
 - 5. Second-Degree Murder
 - 6. Manslaughter
- L. Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, Fear, and Physical Restraint
 - 1. Sex Offenses
 - 2. Assault and Battery
 - 3. Domestic Violence and Stalking
 - 4. Kidnapping and False Imprisonment
- M. Crimes against Property
 - 1. Nonviolent Theft Crimes
 - 2. Extortion, Robbery, and Receiving Stolen Property
 - 3. Crimes that Invade or Damage Property
- N. Crimes against the Public
 - 1. Quality of Life Crimes
 - 2. Crimes Targeting Group Conduct
 - 3. Vice Crimes
- O. Crimes Against the Government
 - 1. Crimes Involving National Security
 - 2. Crimes Involving Terrorism
 - 3. Perjury, Bribery, and Obstruction of Justice

Grade Scale

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Discussions 10%
- 2. Research assignment 20%
- 3. Course Project 20%
- 4. Final Exam 20%
- 5. Assignments 20%
- 6. Module 1 Test 10%

Course Requirements

- 1. Students can complete this course without physically visiting the institution offering the course.
- 2. The student will post discussions as instructed along with any other assignments instructed to complete.

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3. Students will search for current ethical issues
4. The student will post discussions as instructed along with any other assignments instructed to complete.
5. The student will complete online quizzes and unit exams by the due dates shown on the course calendar.
6. The student will write a paper discussing topics covered throughout the semester.

Course Policies

1. Students must provide their own textbooks, writing instruments, and other necessary supplies for classes.
2. Students must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
3. Students must respect one another and all faculty.
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
6. All exams will be taken on the scheduled dates. There will be **NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**
7. All assignments are due when stated. Late assignments are not accepted.
8. Additional course policies are outlined in “Classroom Policies” provided at the beginning of the semester.
9. Students are expected to follow the Lamar Institute of Technology Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy
10. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course.
11. The instructor will respond to e-mail and voice mail communication within 48 hours Monday through Friday. Assignment grades will be published within 2 weeks of the assignment due date.

Technical Requirements

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=25368512>

A functional internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building

<http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/default.aspx>

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Topics	Reference
1	Welcome and Introductions Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Law	Online: Module 1 Textbook: Chapter 1
2	Chapter 1 continued	Online: Module 1 Textbook: Chapter 1
3	Chapter 2: Legal System in the United States	Online: Module 1 Textbook: Chapter 2
4	Chapter 3: Constitutional Protections Chapter 4: The Elements of a Crimes Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 4	Online: Module 1 Textbook: Chapters 3&4
5	Chapter 5: Criminal Defenses, Part I	Online: Module 2 Textbook: Chapter 5
6	Chapter 6: Criminal Defenses, Part 2	Online: Module 2 Textbook: Chapter 6
7	Chapter 7: Parties to Crimes Chapter 8: Inchoate Offenses	Online: Modules 2&3 Textbook: Chapters 7&8
8	Chapter 8 continued; Research Paper Due	Online: Module 3 Textbook: Chapter 8
9	Chapter 9: Criminal Homicide	Online: Module 3 Textbook: Chapter 9
10	Chapter 10: Sex Offenses and Crimes Involving Force, Fear, and Physical Restraint	Online: Module 3 Textbook: Chapter 10
11	Chapter 11: Crimes against Property	Online: Module 4 Textbook: Chapter 11
12	Chapter 12: Crimes against the Public Course Project Due	Online: Module 4 Textbook: Chapter 12
13	Chapter 13: Crimes against the Government	Online: Module 4 Textbook: Chapter 13
14	Chapter 13 continued	Online: Module 4 Textbook: Chapter 13
15	Course Review	Online: Modules 1-4 Textbook: Chs. 1- 13
16	Review; Final Exam: Chapters 5 - 13	Online: Modules 1-4 Textbook: Chs. 5- 13

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